

Appl. No. 09/743,960
Amdt. dated June 1, 2005
Reply to FINAL action of March 4, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The two attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 5. One sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2. In Fig. 1, the orientation of sleeves 14 has been corrected to conform to the orientation of the prongs 18 in Figs. 2 and 3. The second sheet, which includes Fig. 5, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5. In Fig. 5, a partial socket 13 with sleeves 14 oriented for the prongs 18 of Fig. 5 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 7-9 and 12 are presently in the application. Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 13 and 14 have been canceled.

In amended Fig. 1, the orientation of sleeves 14 has been corrected to conform to the orientation of the prongs 18 in Figs. 2 and 3. In amended Fig. 5, a partial socket 13 with sleeves 14 oriented for the prongs 18 of Fig. 5 has been added. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, is respectfully requested. The examiner maintains that lines 7-10 and 14-16 are inconsistent with the Fig. 5 embodiment.

Lines 14-16, calling for "the electrical connection between the plug tabs (18, 19) is produced by means of strips or struts (21) disposed in the adapter body (20; 20') whose ends have the plug tabs (18, 19) formed onto them and of one piece with them," have been canceled.

However, applicants see no inconsistency in lines 7-10. Lines 7-10 call for "said adapter having a first group (16) of electrical contacts adapted to the socket (13) and a second group (17) of electrical contacts adapted to the connector plug, said contacts of the two contact groups (16, 17) being connected to one another in an electrically conductive manner inside the adapter (15')." This language is consistent with the description of Fig. 5 in the original specification. For example, on page 7, lines 21-24, the specification teaches that "[t]he electrical connections are embodied as strip conductors, which contact the ends of the plug tabs 18 and the ends of the plug

tabs 19 which pass through to the underside of the plastic plate 23.” Also, original claim 1, lines 13-16, teaches that “the contacts of the two contact groups (16, 17) are connected to one another in an electrically conductive manner inside the adapter (15; 15'; 15”).” Further, original Fig. 5, does not show the strip conductors to be on the outside of the flat plastic plate (23). Therefore, the strip conductors are implicitly disclosed in Fig. 5 as being inside the adapter (15”).

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims 7-9 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Japan 10-225048 in view of Haile (US 4,917,625) is respectfully requested. The examiner states that Japan 10-225048 teaches a contact part that protrudes at a right angle from the underside (read as the lower end of walls 72a) of the adapter. While applicants do find this feature in the reference, applicants note that the examiner has suggested that the last three lines of claim 7 be amended to read “the plug tabs (18) of the other contact group (16) are at right angles to the direction of the plug tabs (19) of the one contact group (17).” Claim 7 has been amended as suggested by the examiner.

Japan 10-225048 does not teach or suggest an “adapter having a first group (16) of electrical contacts adapted to the socket (13) and a second group (17) of electrical contacts adapted to the connector plug” wherein the plug tabs of one of the contact groups are at right angles to the direction of the plug tabs of the other contact group as required by claim 7. To the contrary, Japan 10-225048 shows (Fig. 10) the adapter 72 as including a contact 83, one end of which engages the contacts 67 of socket 70 and the other end of which engages the contacts in

plug 71. The ends of contact 83 are shown to be aligned with one another, not at right angles to each other as required by claim 7.

Likewise, Haile's adapter 10 includes contacts 20 and 22 shown to be aligned with one another, not at right angles to each other as required by claim 7. See Figs. 1 and 4.

To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). Neither Japan 10-225048 nor Haile teaches or suggests an electric motor-and-gear assembly of the type recited in claim 7 comprising an "adapter having a first group (16) of electrical contacts adapted to the socket (13) and a second group (17) of electrical contacts adapted to the connector plug" wherein the plug tabs of one of the contact group are at right angles to the direction of the plug tabs of the other contact group. Accordingly, claims 7-9 are not rendered obvious by the combined teachings of Japan 10-225048 and Haile.

Claim 12 is directed to the embodiment illustrated in applicants' Fig. 5. As shown and described in the specification, this embodiment includes an adapter 15" embodied as a flat plastic plate 23 and the contacts of the two contact groups 16, 17 are comprised of plug tabs 18, 19 affixed in the plastic plate 23, wherein the plug tabs 18 of the first contact group 16 protrude from one side of the plastic plate 23 and the plug tabs 19 of the second contact group 17 protrude from the other side of the plastic plate 23

Fig. 10 of Japan 10-225048 shows an adapter 72 with a contact 83. It appears that the contact is formed with a male terminal at each end. However, none of Japan 10-225048, the

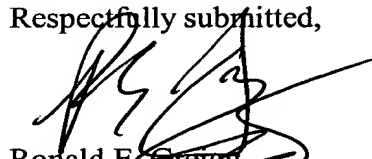
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admitted prior art and Haile teach or suggest an electric motor-and-gear assembly for driving automotive power accessories of the type recited in claim 12 including an adapter embodied as a flat plastic plate and plug tabs of the one contact group protrude from one side of the plastic plate and the plug tabs of the other contact group protrude from the other side of the plastic plate.

Since none of Japan 10-225048, the admitted prior art and Haile teach or suggest an electric motor-and-gear assembly for driving automotive power accessories of the type recited in claim 12 including an adapter embodied as a flat plastic plate and plug tabs of the one contact group protrude from one side of the plastic plate and the plug tabs of the other contact group protrude from the other side of the plastic plate, independent claim 12 is not rendered obvious by the combined teachings of the applied prior art.

Entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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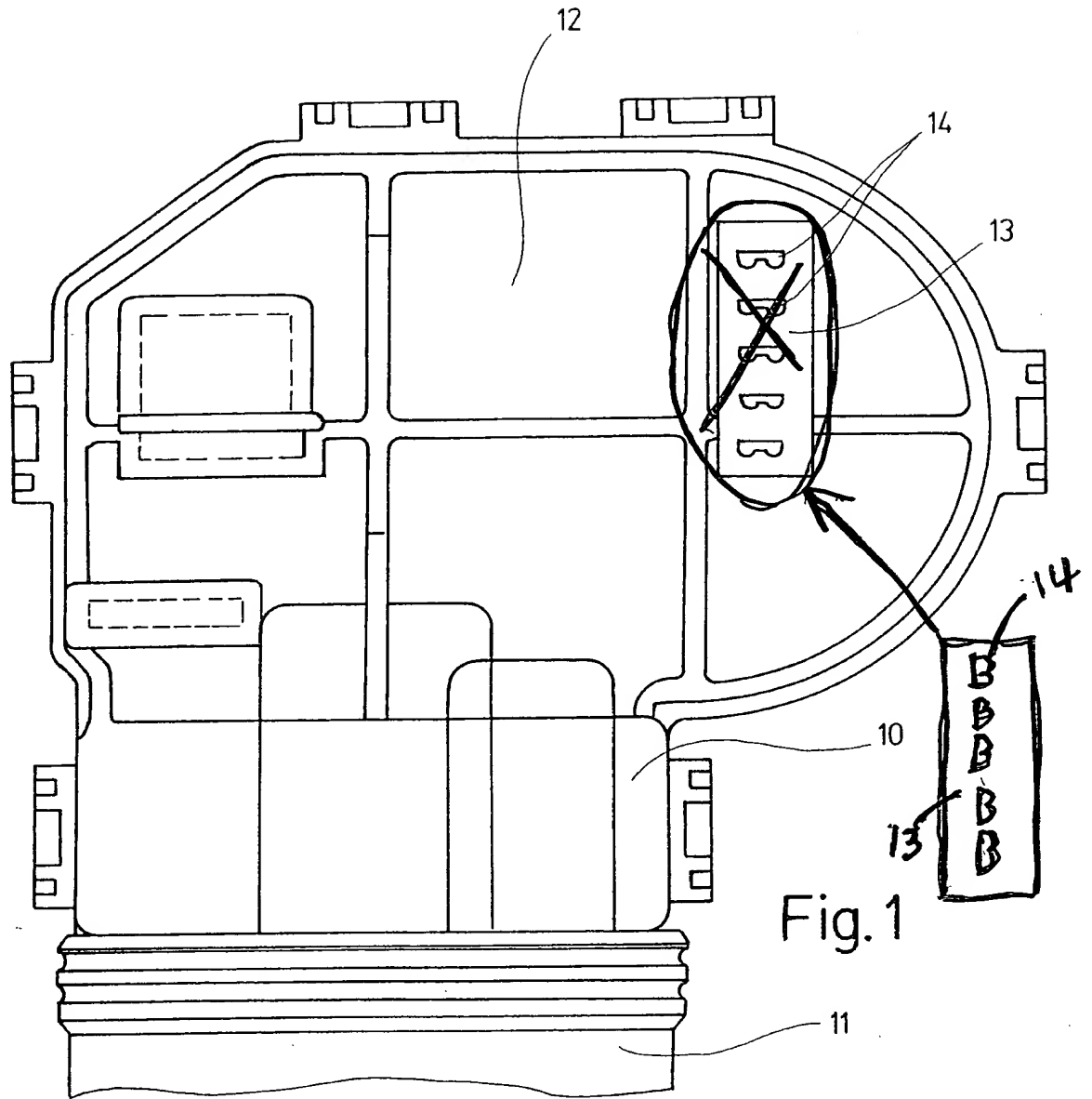


Fig. 1

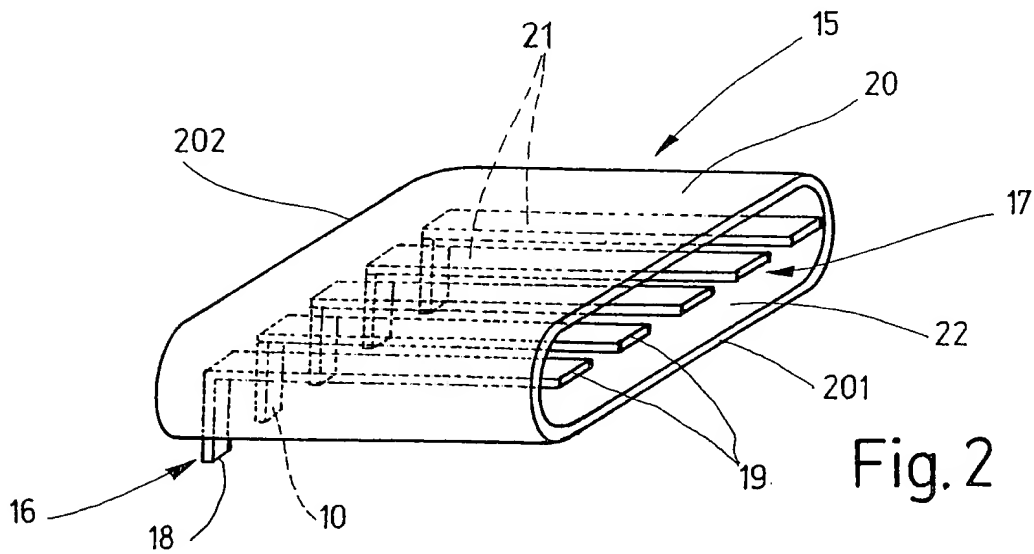


Fig. 2

